



# Achievement Winner

The Morton County Soil Conservation District is proud to present their Achievement Winner: Roger & Joan Hoovestol along with Russell & Laura Hoovestol and Family. The Hoovestol's are the fifth generation currently operating the crop and livestock operation. In the early 90's they adopted rotational grazing practices to better utilize grass varieties and later establish a pasture pipeline system to provide dependable fresh water in all pastures. The Hoovestol's implemented no-till practices 18 years ago, thus reducing input costs while conserving moisture and increasing soil health and productivity. This conservation emphasis has increased their forage production, extended their grazing season with cover crops and crop residue utilization, and has reduced manure handling by winter grazing and pasture feeding.



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WENDY THOMSON

# 2021 Annual Report

**January** — We welcomed our new tree technician, Thomas Osterbauer. Thomas started with MCSCD on January 4th, 2021.

**February** — Farming & Ranching for the Bottom Line was done virtual this year due to Covid 19.

**March** — Women's Ag night is an event held every other year. This year the MCSCD teamed with the Mandan High School Ag Department to make some of the door prizes.

**April** — Brought new faces to the office. Jacob Dummer and Bryce Anderson started as Cannonball River CDU soil conservationists with the NRCS. They will be housed in the Mandan field office. Also joining the Mandan office is Aleesha Boelter, as the Farm Bill Specialist.

**May & June** — We planted 65,000 feet of trees and laid 60,000 feet of fabric. Thank you tree crew!



**July** — MCSCD co-hosted the Crops, Covers & Cows II on July 29th at the Menoken Farm. We also said good bye to our intern Tia Guptill.

**August** — Through out the summer we partnered with Burleigh County SCD to host 4 garden events. These events ran from May with the start of a tour on how to get your garden started, through August which ended with a food preservation workshop.

**September** — Eco-Ed took place in Center with area schools learning about soil, wetlands and other conservation resources.

**October** — MCSCD employees volunteered at the Envirothon, held in Washburn. This event is a competition between high school student testing their knowledge on natural resources.

**November** — NDASCD held their annual meeting virtually again this year with hopes to be back in person in Bismarck in 2022.

**December** — Finished up the year by putting the manure spreader & drill into storage until spring.



## **2021 Conservation Practice Implementation:**

**Cover Crop ~431.4 ac.**  
**Residue Management/No Till ~ 1613.0 ac.**  
**Nutrient Management ~ 808.4 ac.**  
**Range Planting ~ 30.2 ac.**  
**Fence ~ 2755 ft.**  
**Livestock Pipelines ~ 37,756.0 ft.**  
**Watering Facilities (Tanks) ~ 9 – 13,611 gal.**

**Pumping Plant ~ 3**  
**Water Well ~ 5 – 1089 ft.**  
**Prescribed Grazing ~ 1271.1 ac.**  
**Brush Management ~ 8.0 ac.**  
**Tree/Shrub Planting for Wildlife food ~ 0.7 ac.**  
**Windbreak Establishment ~ 3590 ft.**  
**Tree/Shrub Establishment ~ 354 ac.**



# Arnold Hawthorn (*Crataegus arnoldiana*)

The Arnold Hawthorn is a low-branched tree with wide-spreading, horizontal branches which are densely set. It has an attractive shape and produces white flowers in the spring and a red fruit that can be processed into jams and jellies, and is also utilized by a variety of birds and mammals, giving it wildlife value.

Arnold Hawthorn is well adapted to many environmental stresses and can handle a wide variety of soil types and pH levels, allowing it to be utilized in some areas that other trees cannot handle. It can reach 15-20 feet in height and width, and grows into a broadly rounded, dense tree. It should be noted that each branch contains many strong, sharp spines that can reach 2-3 inches in length.

With the increased threat of the Emerald Ash Borer making its way to North Dakota we are constantly looking for tree species to plant in place of Ash trees. While the Arnold Hawthorn doesn't handle as many soil types as the Ash, it has great wildlife value providing food and cover. It is definitely a tree to consider for your next planting.



## Cover Crops for Forage

By Ryan Kobilansky

Most livestock producers in our area are running low on hay and are short on grazing coming into the new year. Pastures and Range have been grazed heavily and will need time to recover before they are ready for cattle. Uncertainty about moisture is widespread and we know we will need to receive timely rainfall in order to produce a nice hay crop and provide adequate grazing.

High input costs and reduced availability for chemical, fertilizer, and seed are also discouraging producers from typical hay crops like small grains and silage. Livestock Producers are looking to minimize costs, create grazing opportunities, and add feed to their stockpile. One option for livestock producers to address these needs is planting cover crops.

Cover Crops are commonly grown in the fall after harvest and can be finicky. Later in the year, sunlight is tapering off and dry fall conditions can limit the amount of production we are able to generate. In contrast, a full season cover crop which is planted in the spring can take advantage of the usual growing season and moisture opportunities. Many cover crops can be grazed early in the summer and hayed off later. Cover crops also provide erosion control, compete with weeds, promote water infiltration, and add diversity to your rotation. All of these can create benefits to soil health and improve the productivity of your cropping system.

60% cost-share is available through the 319 Watershed Project for first-time cover crop users who are within the watershed boundary. Technical Assistance is available to design a cover crop mixture specific for your soil types and intended use. Contact the office to see if you are eligible to participate.

# 2022 PLANTING DECISIONS

By Thomas Osterbauer

With fertilizer prices at record highs, most places are double if not triple what they were a year ago. In addition, there is a shortage of active ingredients including 2,4-D, Glyphosate, and Glufosinate. The logistics of growing a crop are going to be an absolute nightmare come spring for most producers if not already.

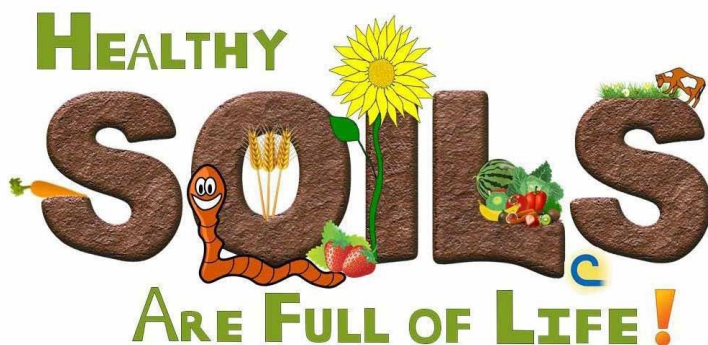
With one pound of Nitrogen costing a dollar, soil sampling has almost become a must after the major drought we went through last year. With the drought, crops couldn't utilize all the nutrients that were put down in 2021. Which as a bright spot, this means that there are still nutrients that were not used up and will be able to be utilized in 2022. A great way to save yourself some money in fertilizer costs would be to get your soils sampled and only apply what you need for 2022.

With Glyphosate being in a major shortage already it is going to present some challenges for producers on what chemicals they will use for a spring burn down, or even an in-crop application on round-up ready crops, as well as a fall burn down. Taking this into consideration a spring applied pre-emerge could get you a jump start on weed control without having to use round-up in-crop or as a spring burn down.

You could also plant cover crops and forgo any nutrient applications which would be great for your soil health as well as helping to suppress unwanted weeds. This would also help reduce chemical cost and the need for a burndown in the spring/fall. This could also be used as a haying or grazing option to help some of the pastures recover after last year's drought. There are many options in doing this, just make sure to give your agronomy center a call and they will help point you in the right direction.

## Facts About Worms

- ♦ Worms will become paralyzed if exposed to light for about an hour, they will be unable to burrow back into the darkness.
- ♦ They do not have eyes but can detect light through their skin.



- ♦ Worms are 90% water (humans are 75%)
- ♦ Worms are cold blooded and have 5 hearts.
- ♦ Worms breath through their skin and have no lungs. If a worm dries out, they suffocate.

# MEADOWLARK INITIATIVE

NRCS has teamed up with many partners in our Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) to develop the Meadowlark Initiative. This program was initiated by the North Dakota Game and Fish Department to restore and sustain native grasslands in North Dakota. Its vision is to promote and create healthy, thriving grasslands that provide biodiversity and prosperity for wildlife, pollinators, ranching operations, and communities by supporting range land, pastures, establishing grass lands, offsetting developmental impacts, promoting societal benefits and advancing science and education. It offers more opportunities to work with multiple agencies outside of the NRCS. These agencies can sometimes provide technical and financial assistance that NRCS may not be able to assist with. For more information about this initiative, please visit the North Dakota Game and Fish Website or contact your local NRCS office.

## MEADOWLARK INITIATIVE

### WHAT'S BEEN LOST



**ONLY  
1 OUT OF 3  
FARMS  
PRODUCE  
CATTLE**



Only two of five farms produced cattle in 2002 in North Dakota; in 2017, just one of every three farms produced cattle.

**1.3% decline  
OF MEADOWLARKS  
PER YEAR**



53% population loss in grassland birds since 1970 (approximately 720 million birds).



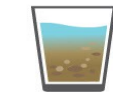
**60%**  
NORTH  
DAKOTA'S  
WETLANDS

Of the nearly 5 million natural wetland acres, 60% have been converted or lost.

### WHAT'S AT STAKE



**1 in 4**  
bumble  
bee  
species  
at risk



**WATER  
QUALITY**



**LOSS OF  
RANCHING HERITAGE**



**50%**  
Meadowlarks  
gone in the  
next 45 years

### HOW CAN THE MEADOWLARK INITIATIVE HELP

#### STABLE WILDLIFE AND POLLINATOR POPULATIONS

Healthy Land, Water and Community



**MEADOWLARK  
INITIATIVE**

<https://gf.nd.gov/meadowlark-initiative>



# WE WANT YOU!



Morton County Soil Conservation District is looking to fill the seasonal position. Depending on the weather, the season will be between the months of April—July, lasting around 4-8 weeks. Some of the job duties will include planting trees, laying fabric, and keeping the tree shed, grounds and equipment clean. Must be able to load and unload trees and be able to lift up to 50 pounds. If this is something you would be interested in contact the office for an application at (701)-667-1163 Ext #3.

## Achievement Photo's

We still have a few achievement photos left. If these are yours or you know someone on the list, contact the office at 701-667-1163 Ext. #3 to pick them up.

1957	Harvey Thorson			1967	Nick A. Renner		
1959	Mr. & Mrs. Armin Rehm			1968	Oscar & Glyn Hoger		
1960	Mr. & Mrs John F Boehm			1978	Mike Howiatow - Howiatow Herford Ranch		
1960	Mr & Mrs. Wilfred Bopp			1981	Nick & Berth Schmidt		
					David & Roseann Schmidt		
1960	Mr. & Mrs. Eugene S. Kastner			1988	Delbert & Irene Kaelbere		
1964	Henry P. Hartmann			2002	Kent & Arnetta Vandenburg		
1965	John Belohlavek			2008	Opp Borthers		



These two photos do not have names with them. If you recognize them call the office to pick them up.



# SCHOLARSHIP

The Morton County Soil Conservation District has established a scholarship opportunity for high school senior/college students that are residents of Morton County, North Dakota. The applicant(s) must be enrolled or currently pursuing a degree in an agricultural/natural resource management/environmental or related field at a two or four year accredited college or university. Multiple scholarships, up to \$500 each, may be awarded.

Interested applicants are required to complete the application form and compose an essay of no more than 500 words on one of the topics chosen by the Morton County SCD. Topics can be found on the Morton County SCD website at MCSCD.com. Essays should be typed. Applicants will need to maintain at least a 2.5 GPA and be a full time college student. The scholarship award will be paid directly to the recipient after the Morton County SCD receives the Fall 2022 semester transcript from a 2yr/4yr accredited college or university.



Applications and essays are due March 1st, 2022. Essays will be judged by the Morton County SCD Board and staff and the winner(s) will be notified no later than April 1st, 2022.

## Save the Date for Farming & Ranching for the Bottom Line

### Farming & Ranching for the Bottom Line

February 22 and 23, 2022

National Energy Center of Excellence

Bismarck State College

1200 Schafer Street, Bismarck, North Dakota

#### Keynote Speakers:

Joel Williams

&

Paulo Carvalho

### FEATURED TOPICS

- ◆ Building SOM with roots, exudates & microbes
- ◆ Grazing management panel
- ◆ Drought/climate projections
- ◆ Livestock integration at Dakota Lakes Research Farm
- ◆ Integrated crop/livestock producer panel

Morton County Soil Conservation District  
2540 Overlook Lane  
Mandan, ND 58554-1593  
[www.mcsd.com](http://www.mcsd.com)  
Phone: 701-667-1163 ext. 3

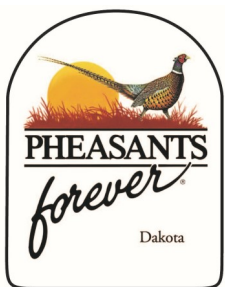
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**Permit No. 433**

*All Programs and Services of the Soil Conservation District are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, marital status, age, or handicap.*

## Sponsors

The Morton County Soil Conservation District would like to thank the following sponsors:



## Upcoming Events

### January

13th — SCD Board Meeting—Mandan

17th — Closed—Martin Luther King Day

### February

10th — SCD Board Meeting—Mandan

15th 7 16th—KFYR ag show—Bismarck Event Center

### February cont.

17th Gardening Basics—Burleigh County Ext. Office

21th — Closed—Presidents Day

22-23 Farming & Ranching for the Bottom Line—BSC

### March

10th — SCD Board Meeting—Mandan